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THE

WAY OF LIFE:

A MORAL AND ALLEGORICAL

FAIRY SPECTACLE,

IN TEN SCENES.

Bailey

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1867.

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THE

WAY OF LIFE:

A MORAL AND ALLEGORICAL

FAIRY SPECTACLE,

IN TEN SCENES.

BY JNO. JAY BAILEY.

1872

SCENE 1. INFANCY.
SCENE 2. CHILDHOOD.
SCENE 3. YOUTH.
SCENE 4. FIRST LOVE.
SCENE 5. MANHOOD.
SCENE 6. WOMANHOOD.
SCENE 7. MARRIAGE.
SCENE 8. SEPARATION.
SCENE 9. DEATH.
SCENE 10. LIFE AND REUNION.

Entered, according to Act of Congress, in the year 1867, by JNO. JAY BAILEY, in the Clerk's Office, of the U. S. District Court of the Eastern District of Missouri.

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1867

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

SUPRA-MORTALS.

LILYBELL, Queen of the Flower Fairies.
OAKBALL, Leader of the Elves of the Woods.
PUCK, Attendant on the Former.
Attendant FAIRIES and ELVES.
KOBALT, An Evil Spirit inhabiting Mines.
IMPS, Attendant on Kobalt.

MORTALS.

MAN AND WOMAN, represented in the successive stages of Life, from the Cradle to the Grave, and beyond it.
Parents, relatives, companions, mourners, a Priest, etc.

THE WAY OF LIFE:

A MORAL AND ALLEGORICAL

FAIRY SPECTACLE,

IN TEN SCENES.

SCENE I.—Infancy.

A domestic interior. The Infant *in its cradle. Its parents sitting near it. Fairies and Elves grouped about.*

FAIRY CHORUS.

Lullaby, lullaby, sleep, baby, sleep,
Fairies a watch o'er thy slumbers shall keep,
In their fond music thy senses to steep,
Lullaby, lullaby, soft be thy dreaming.
Long as thy life shall their guardianship be,
Keeping thy soul from the evil one free,
Guiding thy steps till thy spirit they see
Safe where the portals of Heaven are gleaming.

Enter Puck. Lilybell *marshals her attendants to the front of the stage.*

Song and Chorus.

Lilybell.

Fays of the flowers! Sprites of the bowers!
Kobalt is near with all his powers;
Guard we to-night, lest, through his might,
Evil befall this child of ours.

Chorus.

ELVES AND FAIRIES.

With double care, this infant fair,
Protect we through the night;
For safe he'll be, from Kobalt free,
When the first rosy beams of the morning's light
Every spirit of evil shall put to flight.

LILYBELL.

Kobalt is here!

Enter KOBALT *and Imps.*

KOBALT.

From hidden mines, where sun ne'er shines,
Kobalt is come to claim his own;
Yield then to me, my slave to be,
This child ye guard, he's mine alone.

Chorus of Imps.

Midsummer's eve beheld his birth,
When 'tis the fairies' right
To seize whate'er is born on earth,
But your choice, which was first, ye saw fit to slight,
So we claim him our own this midsummer's night.

Chorus.

ELVES AND FAIRIES.

No, ne'er we'll yield this precious child
To Kobalt's imps, so grim and wild;
We'll keep him pure and undefiled
Against every assault of your evil powers,
For till manhood he reaches he shall be ours.

KOBALT AND IMPS.

To be our slave then yield this child,
Or let him reap our vengeance wild,
With broken spirit, sin defiled,
He shall yet fall a prey to our subtle powers,
And ere manhood he reaches he shall be ours.

TABLEAU.

SCENE II.—CHILDHOOD.

Same. CHILDREN *and their Parents; Fairies, Elves, and Imps.*

LILYBELL.

Seize your good swords, merry sprites of the wildwood,
Boldly to face wicked Kobalt to-night;
Into the presence of innocent childhood
Ne'er let him come to envenom and blight.

ELVES.

Resolutely,
Weapon in hand,
Kobalt we'll face and defeat absolutely;
'Gainst the spells of his wicked band,
Here, the defenders of childhood, we stand.

LILYBELL.

Childhood! O innocent age of affection,
Pure as the opening leaflets of spring—
Promise of growth unto human perfection—
O that thy pleasures might never take wing!

ELVES AND FAIRIES.

Innocently,
Merrily play;
Life at your age should flow evenly, gently:
Fear no foes while God you obey—
Trust {our / their} good swords to keep Kobalt away.

Duet and Chorus.

KOBALT. Innocence is fleeting;
Guilt and pleasure meeting,
Join in youth's completing;
Kobalt bides his time!

LILYBELL. Prompter to crime!
Truth and virtue have power to defend.
KOBALT. Cunning arts are stronger than they.
LILYBELL. Arts shall fail when truth lights the way.

CHORUS. Vice and Virtue contending—
Tempting, protecting, assaulting, defending—
Vice and Virtue contending,
Time must decide how this conflict shall end.

ELVES. Innocence is cheerful,
It is sin that's tearful,
Guilt alone is fearful,
Let us still be gay.
KOBALT. Brats! brag away,
Idle words cannot Kobalt offend.
LILYBELL. Valiant deeds shall put him to flight!
KOBALT. Fools, beware! Ye trifle with might.

CHORUS. Vice and virtue contending,
Etc., etc.

Pantomime — PUCK *makes mischief among the children. Imps set them fighting.* TABLEAU.

SCENE III. — YOUTH.

Same. A YOUTH, *his parents and sisters. Characters, otherwise, as in last scene.*

ELVES AND FAIRIES.

Behold what shining graces
  Adorn the brow of youth,
Where every virtue places
  The signet of its truth.

LILYBELL.

My heart is filled with fears,
  Weighed down with apprehension,
What trials, what contention,
  Await his coming years.
The world claims him to-day,
  What if its guilty pleasures,
With Kobalt's evil measures,
  Should lead his soul astray?

Solo and Semi-Chorus.

KOBALT. 'Tis Kobalt's hour is come at last;
  Temptations now shall follow fast,
IMPS. And he shall fall—shall fall!
KOBALT. As forth into the world he goes,
  We'll taint its joys, make full its woes;
IMPS. His cup we'll fill with gall!

ELVES AND FAIRIES.

Dear Lilybell, from danger
Our / Their } swords shall guard him still.
We'll keep his heart a stranger
  To every form of ill.

LILYBELL.

I trust you all, my friends,
Secure, your faith possessing;
May God bestow his blessing,
From Him all strength descends.

ELVES AND FAIRIES.

Ay, trust us, Lilybell,
Our Father's aid imploring,
His sov'reign name adoring,
In Him our hopes shall dwell.

Pantomime — The YOUTH *receives the paternal blessing, and takes leave of his parents and sisters. He turns to depart.* PUCK *leads the way.* TABLEAU.

SCENE IV — FIRST LOVE.

A Garden. LILYBELL *reclining upon a green mound. Fairies grouped around.*

ONE OF THE FAIRIES.

Now gentle Spring advances,
With buds and blossoms gay;
Come greet with songs and dances
The merry month of May.

Fairy Chorus.

Sing tra, la, la, la,
Come, with merry songs and dances,
Sing tra, la, la, la,
Let us greet the return of the May.

They dance.

Song and Chorus.

While Lilybell reposes,
For her, our gentle Queen,
We 'll weave a wreath of roses
To deck her brow serene;

Sing tra, la, la, la,
Come, we' ll weave a wreath of roses,
Sing tra, la, la, la,
To adorn the fair brow of our Queen.

They dance.

Enter PUCK, *followed by a youthful* MAIDEN, *who seats herself in an attitude of dejection upon the mound from which* LILYBELL *has risen. Exit* PUCK.

Song and Chorus.

LILYBELL.

Alas, with these poor mortals,
What griefs their loves beget;
O Love! thy golden portals
With bitter tears are wet.

Fairy Chorus.

Sing tra, la, la, la,
For this drooping, love-lorn maiden;
Sing tra, la, la, la.
Who shall comfort this love-stricken maid?

LILYBELL. Our darling youth approaches—
He'll cheer this drooping fair;
In mutual, fond reproaches
Shall pass their deep despair.

CHORUS. Sing tra, la, la, la,
He shall soothe this love-lorn maiden;
Sing tra, la, la, la,
He shall comfort this love-stricken maid.

During the last stanza PUCK *has re-entered, followed by a* YOUNG MAN, *who walks hesitatingly to the mound, and kneels at the* MAIDEN'S *feet. Pantomime, expressive of reconciliation.* KOBALT *and Imps entering, are faced by the Elves, sword in hand, who have followed the Young Man upon his entrance.* TABLEAU.

SCENE V.—MANHOOD.

A gambling-house. Gambling-table; sideboard, with wine and fruit. The MAN, *with his companions, at the table, gambling.* KOBALT *at his side; Imps surrounding him.* LILYBELL *at R. H., weeping.*

KOBALT AND IMPS.

Drink and play,
He's a fool that yields to sorrow;
Lose to-day,
Bah! you'll make it up to-morrow.
Ever gay,
Ruin comes, then turn and borrow.
Never pay,
All's fair at play.

They drink.

LILYBELL, *Solo.*

Lost! Lost! Lost!
O Father in Heaven,
For this have we striven—
In agony striven—
With Evil's dark host?
O Heavenly host,
When foes are assailing,
Are prayers unavailing?
O hear us bewailing
He is lost! he is lost!

The players resume their places at the table.

KOBALT AND IMPS.

Loaded dice,
Make this little game more charming;
Cheat him twice,
Cheat him thrice;
Ha! the wine their blood is warming;
In a trice,
To the fight you'll see them arming;
Dear is vice,
Souls pay the price.

They fight. The Man stabs his opponent, and is seized by the Imps. Elves entering, are faced by Imps, spear in hand. TABLEAU.

N. B.—During this scene, PUCK, *seated under the table, rises now and then to steal or displace the cards—making mischief generally.*

SCENE VI.—WOMANHOOD.

A forest. The MAN *sits upon a mound, a prisoner to* KOBALT *and Imps, who surround him.*

Song and Chorus.

KOBALT. The victory's won, Lilybell is defeated!
IMPS. Huzza! Huzza!
KOBALT. Exult we now in our vengeance completed.
IMPS. Huzza! Huzza!

CHORUS. Long, long in vain for this end have we striven:
He's ours at last;
No rescue now: against earth, air, and Heaven,
We'll hold him fast!

Enter LILYBELL.

KOBALT. Ha! Lilybell, here thy duties are over.
LILYBELL. That we'll disprove.
KOBALT. Thy lost control, say, what art shall recover?
LILYBELL. A woman's love!

CHORUS. No rescue now; vice and guilt, the red-handed,
Have sealed the doom! [branded
Remorse and death claim the soul that is
For endless gloom!

Enter WOMAN, *led by* PUCK *and followed by Fairies. She holds out to the Man a Bible, and points above. He breaks from* KOBALT *and kneels at her feet. Elves rush in and drive out Imps.*

Song and Chorus.

LILYBELL. Rejoice! rejoice! the light is breaking,
The night of death is passed away;
The soul from lurid dreams awaking,
Restored to freedom, hails the day.
Redeemed, baptised in woman's love.
CHORUS. New born from above,
LILYBELL. Anew to serve the Heavenly King.
CHORUS. His praise let us sing,
In joy and peace we'll merrily sing!

LILYBELL. O pure woman's love,
Blest boon from above!

CHORUS. Redeemed, baptised in woman's love,
Etc., etc.

TABLEAU.

SCENE VII.—Marriage.

A street. A bridal procession. Orchestra plays a wedding march. Scene changes to a church. Priest at the altar, to which the procession advances, while Lilybell *and Fairies sing.*

Song and Chorus.

Lilybell. O blessed day that joins two hearts
In faithful love forever!
The blended hopes thy bliss imparts
Nor time nor death shall sever.

Chorus. Take, Oh, take thy virgin bride,
Thine in love forever;
Take, Oh, take thy virgin bride,
Thine, thy love, thy hope, thy pride.

Kobalt *and his Imps having entered the church after the procession, rush out in terror.*

SCENE VIII.—Separation.

An interior. A bier covered by a white sheet. The Man *(now middle-aged) kneels by it. Mourners, Fairies, Imps, etc.,* Lilybell *and* Kobalt.

Fairy Chorus.

Sad spirit weeping
Life's hopes all fled;
Thy lone watch keeping
Beside the dead.
Oh, raise thy vision
To scenes above:
In fields elysian
There waits thee thy love.

KOBALT, *Recitative.*

Come, come, this won't do;
Man, begin life anew.
Now the old love is dead,
Soon a younger we'll wed;
Now we're free, in full measures
We'll drink deep of life's pleasures.

The Man waves him away.

KOBALT, *aside.*

I'll change my tactics and my song;
Indulge he but one thought of wrong,
And he is mine once more.

To the Man *Solo.*

Bright hopes of love laid low in dust,
O cruel blow! O God unjust!
Unpitying Heaven, relentless, fell!
Now trust, allegiance, faith, farewell!

(*Aside*)

He heeds me not, my game is o'er.

Exeunt KOBALT *and Imps.*

Fairy Chorus.

Weep, weep, O stricken,
Tears heal the heart,
Then thoughts that quicken
Solace impart.
In Heaven above thee,
Eternal shrine,
She lives to love thee,
Forever thine.

TABLEAU.

SCENE IX.—DEATH.

Same. The MAN (*very old*) *reclines upon a couch. Attendants, Fairies, etc.* KOBALT *and Imps.*

Song and Chorus.

KOBALT.

Rally, man, rally,
Death draweth near;
Lo! the dark valley,
Dismal and drear;
Thither descending,
Life hath its ending,
Quenched as a spark in the infinite gloom;
Enter the broad way,
But, ah, no roadway
Leads out beyond from the heart of the tomb.

Chorus of Imps.

Lo! the dark valley,
Death draweth near;
Rally, man, rally,
Sink not in fear.

LILYBELL AND FAIRIES (*unseen*).

Dread not the shadowy valley of Death;
Living beyond it thy loved one now waits for thee,
Fairies hold open the silvery gates for thee,
Bright is the passage when lighted by Faith.

(*After a pause*)

KOBALT.

Voices, mere voices,
Floating in air;
Nature rejoices,
Death is despair.

God—that is, Nature—
Filling the creature,
Yields up the life it is helpless to save;
Heaven's an error,
Hell a vain terror;
Never a form issues forth from the grave.

Chorus—Imps.

Quench aspiration,
Quake and despair—
Annihilation
Now draweth near.

A curtain is drawn aside at back, and a vision of Fairy Land given. LILYBELL *and the* SPIRIT *of the departed* WIFE *appear, surrounded by Fairies.* KOBALT *and Imps vanish.*

LILYBELL AND FAIRIES.

Hasten, blest spirit, from earth to be free!
Death, that bereft thee, thy love shall restore to thee;
Hark! angels call from the Heavenly shore to thee,
Safe they'll conduct thee o'er death's narrow sea.

Vision disappears. The MAN *falls dead.*

SCENE X.—*Life and Reunion.*

Fairy Land. LILYBELL *and* SPIRIT OF THE WIFE. *Fairies and Elves.*

Fairy Chorus and Dance.

The choral groves and flowery meads
Demand our present watch and care,
From sparrow-hawks and ugly weeds
To guard the birds and blossoms fair.

Then speed we back from our bright land of Faerie,
Yet ere we seek the regions sublunary;
To Lilybell, low in her presence bending,
Renew we first our vows of love unending.

They kneel.

To save from Kobalt's evil arts
The tender germs of infant life,
And still to keep true lovers' hearts
From jealousies and fitful strife.
Come, speed we back from our bright land of Faerie,
But end we first our office tutelary,
And this fond waiting one sustain right cheerly,
Until rejoined by him she loves so dearly.

LILYBELL (*rising*).

Sprites of the greenwood, quick, to your arms!
Kobalt approaches; the wildest alarms
Float through these realms, on the zephyrs ascending;
See, the flowers shrink as from evils impending.

FAIRIES. Monster of fear!
What wants he here?
LILYBELL. To arms!
OAKBALL. To arms!
ELVES. To arms!

Enter KOBALT *and Imps.*

KOBALT.

Eager that this vain strife may cease,
Fairies, I come repentant,
Unto your realms resplendent,
Friendship to seek, and peace.
We 've striven long and harshly too,
Justly am I defeated;
Of injuries oft repeated,
For pardon now I sue.

IMPS.

These cowardly concessions
  Of weakness, thou shalt rue;
Such abject, vile concessions,
  For us will never do.

LILYBELL.

Kobalt, a mightier Power than I
  Only can pardon evils;
  Turn from those surly devils
    And kneel to God on high.

KOBALT (*kneeling*).

Fair Lilybell, to thee alone
  I kneel in true contrition;
  Thy favor my ambition,
    Thy love my dearest boon.

ELVES AND FAIRIES.

Kobalt, the love thou speakest
  Is tainted yet with sin;
Th' exalted love thou seekest,
  Exalted deeds must win.

Duet.

KOBALT.

Justly, great God, thy broken law
  Penance most dire imposes;
  Virtue's bright dawn discloses
    Evils the heart that gnaw.
When thee to seek, I fain would turn,
  Darkness arises 'round me—
  Passions that long have bound me
    Into my being burn.

LILYBELL.

Justly, O God, thy broken law
  Penance on him imposes,
  The light he seeks discloses
    Evils his heart that gnaw.
Yet if to seek thy face he turn,
  O let thy love surround him:
  The passions still that wound him
    O give him strength to spurn.

Chorus.

KOBALT.

To haunts where darkness reigneth—
  To scenes that mirror hell—
I go, yet love remaineth,
  Of bliss—of hope—to tell.
        Dear Lilybell,
        Awhile farewell!

LILYBELL AND FAIRIES.

Kobalt, the Lord that reigneth
  Can snatch thee yet from hell;
Then go, while strength remaineth,
  To break from sin's dark spell.
        Kobalt, farewell,
        Awhile farewell!

IMPS.

Down, down, where darkness reigneth,
  Quick, drag him down to hell.
While yet his heart retaineth
  The blight of sin's dark spell.
        To Lilybell,
        For aye farewell!

Exeunt KOBALT *and Imps.*

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Enter PUCK, *followed by the* SPIRIT OF THE MAN, *restored to youth. The reunion.*

Chorus.

Free from earth and all its care,
Reunited, happy pair,
Heaven now its golden portals holds for ye open wide.
From the Lord ye now adore,
Comes a voice that bids ye soar
To the realms of joy eternal, there to dwell side by side.
From Fairy Land haste away, our work is done;
Farewell! Farewell! Angels wait to lead ye on.

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